



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Professional Responsibility

950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Suite 3266
Washington, D.C. 20530

MAY 23 2006

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Thank you for your April 20, 2006 letter asking about the status of our inquiry into the issues raised in your July 26, 2005 letter to Inspector General (IG) Glenn Fine, which was referred to the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) on August 10, 2005. Our March 24, 2006 response to your letter (copy enclosed), which may have been delayed by the congressional mail screening process, advised you that OPR had concluded that the CIA request for a leak investigation into the disclosure of CIA operative Valerie Plame's covert status was handled in accordance with the Department's standard procedures, and that the investigation was not delayed or otherwise prejudiced as a result of misconduct on the part of Department employees.

In your letter, you also inquired about an August 17, 2005 letter from you and Congressman Maurice Hinchey to IG Fine, in which you asked the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to investigate whether then Attorney General John Ashcroft violated conflict of interest rules by delaying his decision to recuse himself from the leak investigation. Our records indicate that OPR did not receive a copy of IG Fine's August 25, 2005 letter to you, in which he stated that he had forwarded your July 26, 2005 and August 17, 2005 letters to OPR. Nor did we receive a copy of the August 17, 2005 letter from the OIG. Our records do indicate that on August 10, 2005, we received a copy of your July 26, 2005 letter from the OIG via facsimile.

We are now reviewing the allegations contained in your and Congressman Hinchey's August 17, 2005 letter and will inform you of the outcome of that review when it is complete.

Please do not hesitate to contact this Office if we can be of any further assistance with regard to this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

H. Marshall Jarrett
Counsel